United Nations S/2013/301

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 May 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 20 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Republic of Korea in February 2013 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultations with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Kim** Sook
Permanent Representative

13-34120 (E) 300513

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Annex to the letter dated 20 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of the Republic of Korea (February 2013)

Introduction

Under the Presidency of the Republic of Korea in February 2013, the Security Council considered a number of agenda items related to Africa, namely Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. The Council also discussed issues relating to the Middle East, including Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic, and non-proliferation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea).

During the month of February, the Council held a high-level open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, which was presided over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, Kim Sung-hwan. The Council also held a thematic briefing on the cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the European Union. A private meeting on the implementation of the note by the President of the Council of 26 July 2010 (S/2010/507), the wrap-up session for the month of February, was also held.

The Security Council held 11 public meetings, 2 private meetings and 13 closed consultations. The Council adopted three resolutions and two presidential statements and issued three press statements.

Africa

Burundi

On 13 February, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2090 (2013), extending the mandate of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) for another year, until 15 February 2014. In the resolution, the Council requested BNUB to focus on and support the Government of Burundi in six areas, one of which dealt with promoting and facilitating dialogue between national actors and supporting mechanisms for broad-based participation in political life, including for the implementation of development strategies and programmes in Burundi and towards ensuring a conducive, free and open environment for the run up to the 2015 elections.

The Permanent Representative of Burundi highlighted the progress his Government had achieved in the areas related to peace and security, democratic process, strengthening good governance and national institutions, the justice sector and human rights and reiterated the request for the gradual transformation of BNUB into a country team to end within 12 months.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 5 February, the Chef de Cabinet, Susana Malcorra, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, briefed the Council in consultations of the whole. The Chef de Cabinet updated the Council on the efforts of the Secretary-General in negotiations for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region (see S/2013/131, annex). The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council on the security situation in North Kivu and the future presence and mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). He spoke about the option of including an intervention brigade in the MONUSCO mandate. Members of the Council expressed their support for the early adoption of the Framework and stressed the need for its effective implementation. They also exchanged views on ways to enhance the effectiveness of MONUSCO operations.

On 21 February, a private meeting was held with countries contributing troops to MONUSCO. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO, Roger Meece, gave a briefing on the security situation in North Kivu, the humanitarian situation of the internally displaced persons and ongoing efforts to enhance the protection of civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 22 February, the Special Representative spoke, in a briefing to the Council, on the security situation and current challenges in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He reported on the proposal to establish an intervention brigade under the MONUSCO mandate. He called upon the Council members to consider authorizing such a brigade to strengthen the peacekeeping mission. In consultations, the members exchanged views on the proposals made by the Secretariat and expressed concern about the worsening security and humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 24 February, the Security Council adopted a press statement (SC/10924) welcoming the signing, in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013, of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, under the auspices of the guarantors of the Framework, namely the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, the Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community and the Chairperson of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The members of the Security Council commended the Secretary-General and the leaders of the region for their work and called on the signatory States of the Framework to implement their commitments fully and in good faith.

Guinea-Bissau

On 5 February, the Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the transition progress in Guinea-Bissau. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, mentioned in his briefing that progress would depend on the sustained political will of national stakeholders and a spirit of compromise and genuine inclusion. Statements were delivered by the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, in her capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Permanent

Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Youssoufou Bamba, on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, Antonio Gumende, on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. In consultations, the members of the Council stressed the need for a swift restoration of the constitutional order through free, fair and transparent elections and expressed their expectation that concerted efforts would continue to be made by the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, ECOWAS, the European Union and the United Nations.

On 22 February, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2092 (2013), extending the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) by three months, until 31 May 2013, to provide the Secretary-General with time to assess the situation on the ground and make recommendations, by 30 April, on the Mission's possible realignment. In the resolution, the Council reiterated its demand to the armed forces to submit themselves fully to civilian control and requested the Secretary-General to continue to work through UNIOGBIS, in coordination with other partners, to facilitate the early finalization of a broader political agreement for the restoration of constitutional order. Also in the resolution, the Council expressed its willingness to consider further action, based on additional information, against those involved in drug trafficking and organized crime in Guinea-Bissau in line of paragraphs 6 and 7 of its resolution 2048 (2012).

Mali

On 6 February, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the situation in Mali in closed consultations. He briefed the Council on the political and military progress, and on the road map for transition adopted by the National Assembly of Mali on 29 January. He added that the United Nations remained concerned about allegations of serious human rights abuses and violations and that long-term efforts were needed for an effective national reconciliation. The Council members reaffirmed their support for the military operations conducted by French and African forces and reiterated the importance of the political process to resolve the crisis. Most of the members expressed concern over the serious human rights and humanitarian situation in Mali. Taking note of the donors' conference held in Addis Ababa, the Council members stressed the need for enhanced support by the international community to meet the needs of the Malian people.

On 27 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on Mali. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, provided an update to the Security Council on the political and security situation in the country. On the political process, he welcomed Malians' commitment to holding elections in July and briefed the Council on the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Office in Mali to assist the Malian authorities in the political sphere. He noted the progress made in the security situation thanks to the military operations undertaken by the French and African forces. He also addressed the letter dated 12 February 2013 from the interim President of Mali, Dioncounda Traoré, to the Secretary-General, in which the interim President requested support for the rapid deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) and noted that this would lead towards the transformation of AFISMA into a United Nations peacekeeping operation in the country (see S/2013/113, annex).

Council members stressed the urgent need for political progress and discussed the possible future deployment of a peacekeeping force in Mali. Following the consultations, on the basis of a consensus reached among the members, the President of the Council, in a letter dated 27 February 2013 (S/2013/129), requested the Secretary-General to include recommendations for the Council's consideration on options for establishing a United Nations peacekeeping operation in his report on Mali due before 20 March, pursuant to resolution 2085 (2012).

Somalia

On 14 February, the Security Council held a briefing on the situation in Somalia. On the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2013/69), the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs reported on the security situation and the options for the future United Nations presence in the country. He stressed that progress in Somalia called for concomitant change in support and, in this regard, noted that the Secretary-General's recommendation for a United Nations assistance mission was the best option for the United Nations to provide enhanced support. In addition, he expressed concern over the lack of sustainable and predictable funding for the African Union Mission in Somalia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Somalia, Fawzia Yusuf Adan, also participated in the briefing. She spoke about the efforts by the Government of Somalia to adopt a policy framework with six pillars, including security and peacebuilding, law and good governance reform and economic recovery. She added that getting rid of remnants of Al-Shabaab was a top priority. In that regard, she called for support from the Security Council in lifting the arms embargo to allow the Somali National Armed Forces to assume full responsibility for the security of the country. The briefing was followed by closed consultations, during which the members of the Council welcomed the improvement of the situation and stressed the need for a United Nations political mission, although divergent views were expressed on its modalities.

Sudan/South Sudan

On 7 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on issues related to the Sudan and South Sudan: the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, the status of implementation of resolution 2046 (2012) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan.

As part of a 60-day report to the Council, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Council on the security situation in Abyei. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, gave a briefing on the latest developments between the Sudan and South Sudan and expressed concern over the lack of progress in implementing the agreements between Sudan and South Sudan of 27 September 2012. The Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, María Cristina Perceval, gave a briefing on the final report of the Panel of Experts.

The members of the Council underscored the need to quickly establish the Abyei Administration, the Council and the Police Service, as well as the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and to promptly implement all nine agreements signed on 27 September

2012 by the Sudan and South Sudan. Some Council members noted with alarm the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, stressing the need for humanitarian access and for urgent direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North to resolve political, security and humanitarian concerns. Some members were of the view that humanitarian access was largely contingent on the early launch of direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North and the cessation of hostilities in the two areas. Regarding reported cases of violations of resolution 1591 (2005), some stressed the need to enhance the implementation of sanctions. Others indicated the need for further verification.

On 14 February, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2091 (2013), extending until 17 February 2014 the mandate of the Panel of Experts that monitors the arms embargo and sanctions against those impeding peace in the Sudan. In that resolution, the Council requested the Panel to provide monthly updates to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) on the Sudan and to continue to coordinate its activities with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur and with international efforts to promote the political process in Darfur. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman, made a statement reaffirming his Government's commitment to cooperate with the Committee and the Panel of Experts.

On 21 February, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan briefed the Council during biweekly consultations held in accordance with resolution 2046 (2012). The security situation along the border, implementation of the agreements of 27 September 2012 and the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile were addressed in his briefing. The Council stressed the need for the establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and activation of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and called for direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-North.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 26 February, the Council held its monthly meeting on the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council at a public meeting. The briefing was followed by consultations of the whole.

The Under-Secretary-General underscored that 2013 was a crucial year to push forward the political process. He emphasized the need for decisive and concerted action, including through a revitalized and relevant Quartet. He expressed concern about recent incidents, including the firing of rockets from Gaza earlier that day and the death of Palestinian detainee Arafat Jaradat. With regard to the Syrian Arab Republic, he expressed concern at the heavy toll paid by Syrian civilians and reiterated the Secretary-General's condemnation of reported ballistic missile strikes in Aleppo and of a series of bombings in Damascus. He welcomed the proposal for dialogue made by the president of the Syrian National Coalition, Moaz al-Khatib, and added that stepped-up efforts by the Council could make a substantial difference. On Lebanon, he expressed concern that the ongoing conflict in the

Syrian Arab Republic was increasingly affecting the country's neighbours, including Lebanon.

Following the briefing, the Council held consultations of the whole. On the Palestinian issue, the Members expressed concern about the negative impact that recent incidents might have on the peace process. They stressed the importance of dialogue and confidence-building between the two sides. On the Syrian Arab Republic, many members expressed serious concern about the high number of civilian casualties and human rights violations. The Council reiterated the need to encourage negotiations between the Syrian regime and the opposition with a view to reaching a political solution to the crisis.

Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 27 February, the Council held consultations of the whole on the Syrian Arab Republic and was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Coordinator, Valerie Amos, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura. The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. She said that more than half of Syrian public hospitals had been damaged and one in five schools had either been destroyed or was being used as a collective shelter. The High Commissioner spoke about the 936,700 refugees in countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic, saying that they were becoming a social, economic, and security burden to the host countries. He also said that the host countries had been very generous and kept their borders open, but that since their capacities were under severe pressure, the international community should step up efforts to provide them with support. The Special Representative described the serious sexual and gender-based human rights violations committed in the Syrian Arab Republic. She expressed deep concern that civilians were becoming the target of sexual violence by all parties.

Council members expressed concern about the humanitarian and human rights situation and called on the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure humanitarian access. Underlining the need for a political resolution to the crisis, they stressed that the pledges of the international community to provide timely assistance to the Syrian people needed to be implemented.

Middle East (Yemen)

On 7 February, the Council held a briefing on the results of the Security Council mission to Yemen that had taken place on 27 January. As co-leaders of the mission, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mark Lyall Grant, and the Permanent Representative of Morocco, Mohammed Loulichki, briefed the Council on meetings with Yemeni officials regarding preparations for the national dialogue, the humanitarian situation and the implementation of the Gulf Cooperation Council transition initiative. They noted that the President of Yemen, Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, had urged the Security Council not to hesitate to act firmly in order to stand up to anyone who might wish to undermine the political process. Shortly after the mission, President Hadi announced that the national dialogue conference would be launched on 18 March.

In subsequent consultations, the Council was briefed by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, on the situation in Yemen. While strongly commending the work of President Hadi and the national dialogue preparatory committee, the Special Adviser said that Yemen continued to face many challenges on the road to the elections to be held in February 2014. He stressed the need for the Council to remain attentive to continued attempts to obstruct the transition and willing to consider further measures as needed. The members of the Council noted the progress made in the political transition in the country. Most of the members welcomed the fact that the Council was able to send a message of strong support to the Yemeni people through its mission to Yemen. They also expressed concern about the humanitarian and security challenges.

On 15 February, the Security Council issued a presidential statement on the situation in Yemen (S/PRST/2013/3). The Council welcomed the recent announcement by the President of Yemen on the launch of the national dialogue conference on 18 March, but expressed concern about reports of interference by individuals representing the former regime, the former opposition and others who did not adhere to the guiding principles of the agreement on the implementation mechanism for the transition process in Yemen, including former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and former Vice-President Ali Salim Al-Beidh. The Council also urged all the parties in Yemen to resolve their differences through dialogue and consultation, reject acts of violence to achieve political goals, refrain from provocations and fully abide by resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012).

Thematic and other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks

On 1 February, the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/10906) condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attack against the Embassy of the United States of America in Ankara, which resulted in one death and several injuries. The Council expressed its sincere condolences and condemned the new and recurring acts of violence against diplomatic and consular representatives. In addition, it reaffirmed the need to combat by all means terrorist acts that threaten international peace and security.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (European Union)

On 13 February, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, briefed the Security Council on strengthening cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations to contribute to international peace and security. The High Representative reaffirmed the full support of the European Union for the work of the Council and spoke about European Union cooperation with regional and international partners in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The members of the Council noted the importance of establishing closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, and acknowledged the valuable contribution of the European Union in addressing global threats and challenges, especially in the fields of conflict prevention, crisis management, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Non-Proliferation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On 12 February, the Security Council held urgent consultations of the whole to address the situation arising from the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Following the consultations, the Council issued a press statement (SC/10912) strongly condemning the nuclear test, which is a grave violation of Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009) and 2087 (2013) and evidence that there continues to exist a clear threat to international peace and security. The Council recalled its resolution 2087 (2013), which had been unanimously adopted in January, in which it expressed its determination to take significant action in the event of a further nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The members said that they would begin work immediately on appropriate measures in a Security Council resolution.

On 21 February, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Sylvie Lucas (Luxembourg), delivered the 90-day report of the Committee to the Council in consultations. The Chair briefed the Council on the Committee's ongoing activities, including the follow-up measures on the implementation of resolution 2087 (2013). Members of the Council condemned the launch made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which used ballistic missile technology, and the nuclear test, and stressed the need for the Council to take a firm stance. They also called on the Committee to strengthen its role and activities in this regard.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 12 February, the Security Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/2). The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea presided over the debate. Among the high-level attendees were the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. The Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, and the Director for International Law and Cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Philip Spoerri, briefed the Council.

The Secretary-General said that civilians remained subject to unacceptable threats to life and dignity in zones of conflict worldwide, and urged the Council to take a lead in protecting civilians and pursuing accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed that the Council needed to respond urgently to situations where civilian lives were threatened, focusing particularly on the Syrian Arab Republic, Mali, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and some other countries.

Council members expressed their deep concern about the fact that civilians continued to account for the vast majority of casualties in situations of armed conflict and recognized that States bear the primary responsibility for protecting civilians. They reiterated their demand that all parties to armed conflict comply strictly with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law. Furthermore, the members of the Council reaffirmed their strong opposition to impunity for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and emphasized the responsibility of States to comply

with their relevant obligations to end impunity. In addition to the Council members, 55 Member States and two observer delegations took part in the open debate. Ensuring accountability for violations of international humanitarian law, improving access to humanitarian assistance, enhancing national capacity to protect civilians and taking preventive measures were among the key issues discussed.

In presidential statement S/PRST/2013/2, the Council reiterated its commitment to addressing the impact of armed conflict on civilians and its consequences in post-conflict situations, in particular on women and children. It also recognized that States bear the primary responsibility for protecting civilians and for respecting and ensuring the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law. It stressed the need to bolster accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Emphasis was put on the need for peacekeeping missions with the mandate to protect civilians to ensure the implementation of that mandate and for mandated protection activities to be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources, including information and intelligence resources, in the implementation of mandates. The Council requested the Secretary-General to submit his subsequent report by 15 November 2013 and for reports to be submitted every 18 months thereafter, thereby establishing for the first time a regular reporting cycle on the protection of civilians.

Implementation of presidential note S/2010/507

On 28 February, the Council held a private meeting on the implementation of presidential note S/2010/507, the wrap-up session for the month of February. The President of the Council gave a briefing on the activities and agenda of the Council during the month. He added that he hoped that the session offered an opportunity for the Council to reflect on its work and served to enhance the accountability and transparency of the Council to all members of the United Nations.

The members of the Council noted that in February the Council had focused mainly on issues related to Africa and the Middle East. They welcomed the convening of the open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the adoption of the presidential statement. They also noted the Council's timely response to the nuclear test of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Discussions also focused on the urgent need for the Council to take united and timely steps in certain situations in parts of Africa and the Middle East. In addition to the Council members, 74 Member States and 1 observer delegation attended the meeting.